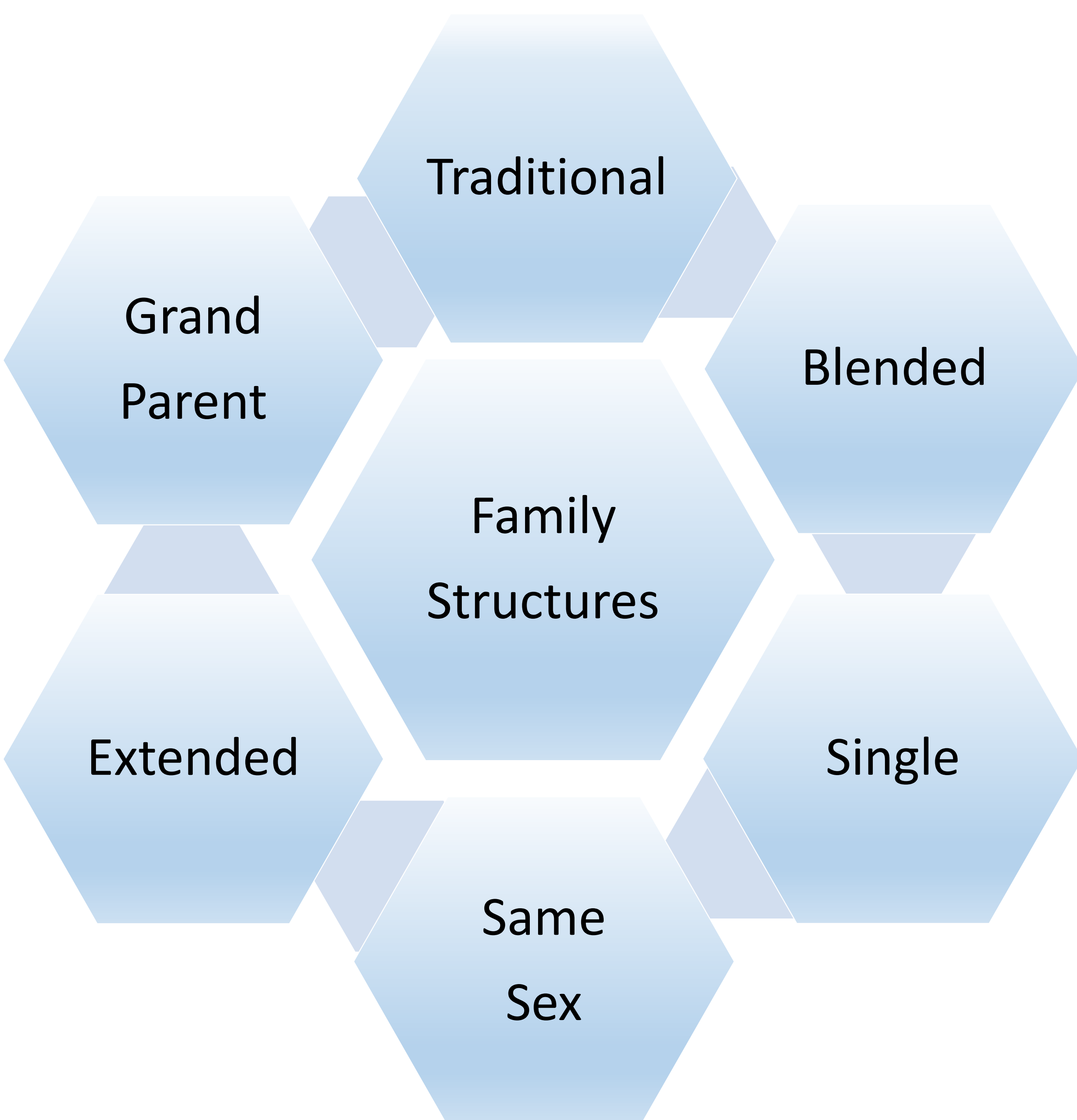




# Family Structure and Media Influences on Juvenile Delinquency

Charles E. Rice

Advisor: Heather Parsons



## Introduction

The structure of the family has changed drastically in the last 50 years. The once valued Traditional structure is now accompanied by a myriad of alternative parental archetypes. Does the structure of the family play a role in the delinquency of juveniles? Also having a great influence on today's youth is modern media. Have these forms of media contributed to juvenile delinquency?

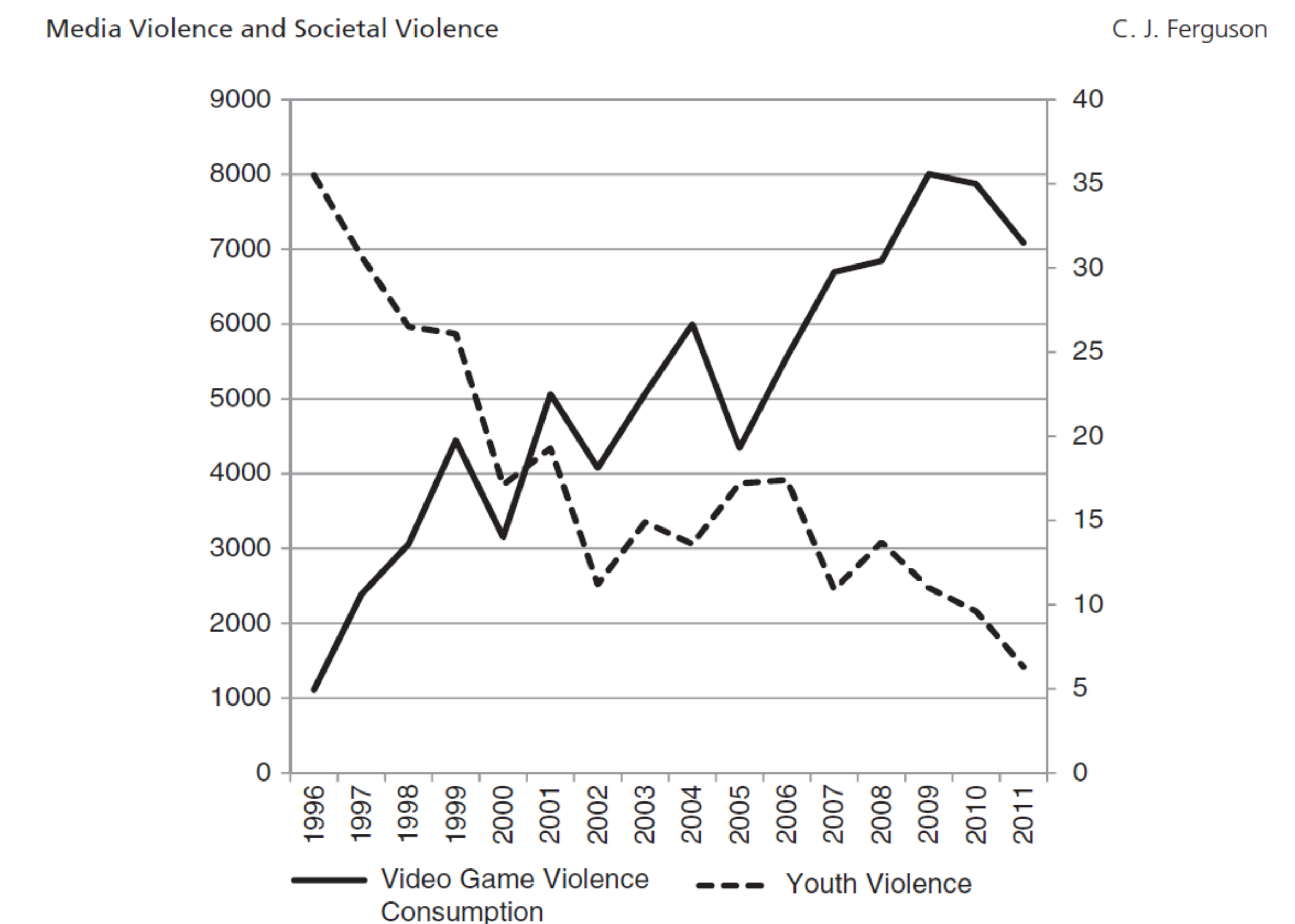
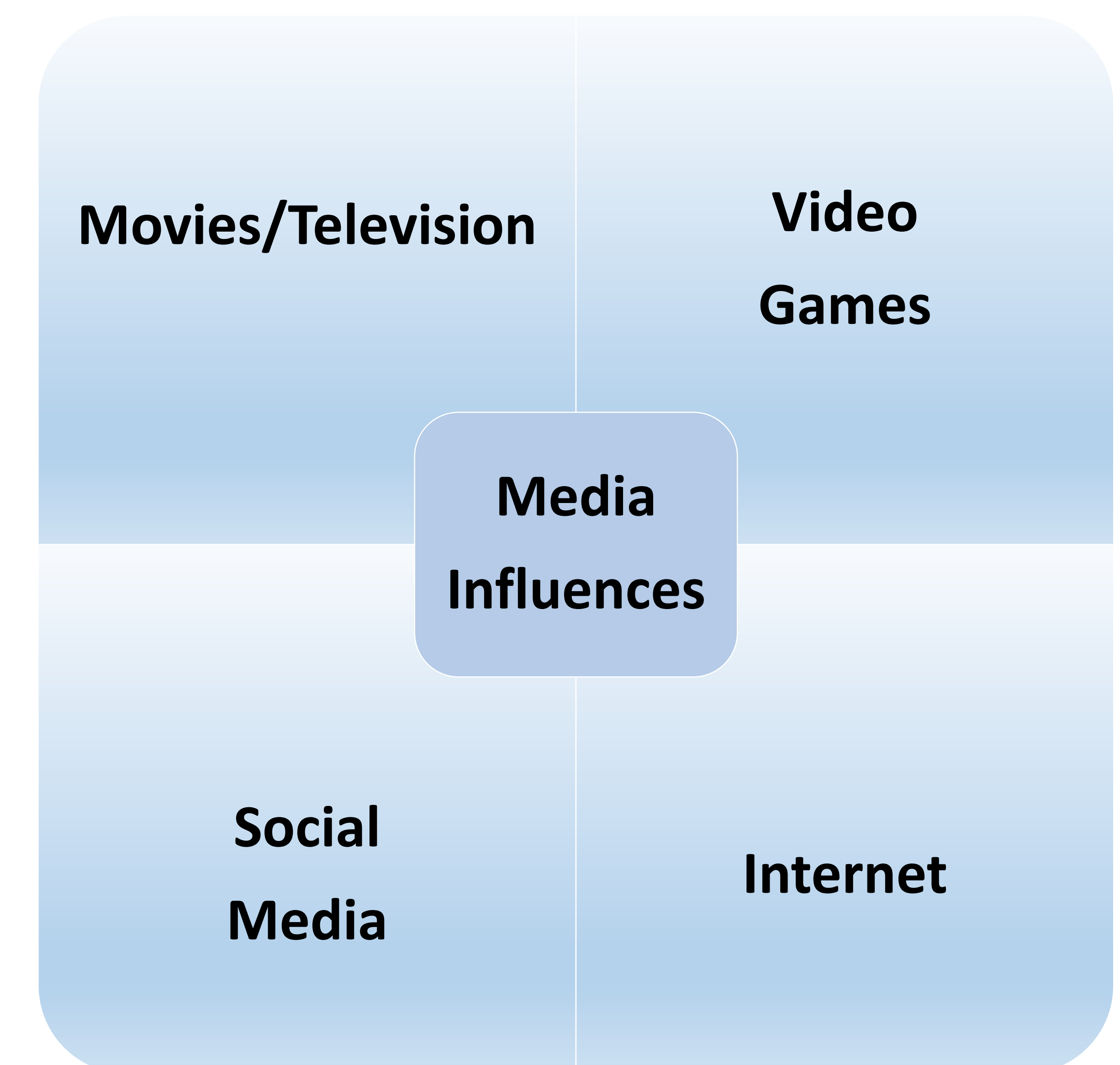


Figure 3 Societal videogame violence consumption and societal youth violence, 1996–2011.



	Status	Misdemeanor	Felony	Row Totals
Intact	26	76	14	116
Father Only	14	26	20	60
Mother Only	105	123	36	264
Step-parent	59	44	8	111
Other	30	44	4	78
Column Totals	234	313	82	629

Six hundred twenty-nine charges filed against 121 male juveniles were selected for use in this study. Each juvenile had a written status or criminal allegation filed against him by a law enforcement officer, school official, parent or probation officer. Plea negotiations and trial outcome were not accounted for during this stage of the study and the innocence of each child was assumed until adjudication. This study was directed at determining a juvenile's susceptibility toward delinquency. The alleged offense was selected as the primary focus instead of the child's alleged culpability in each individual allegation. Each alleged incident occurred within Lewis County, West Virginia, with no bearing given to the residential status of the juvenile. The subjects ranged from 9 to 17 years of age

## References

Ferguson, Christopher J. "Does Media Violence Predict Societal Violence? It Depends on What You Look at and When," Journal of Communications, February 2015, Vol. 65, Issue 1, E1–E22.

Mullens, Angela D., "The Relationship Between Juvenile Delinquency and Family Unit Structure" (2004). *Theses, Dissertations and Capstones*. Paper 750